



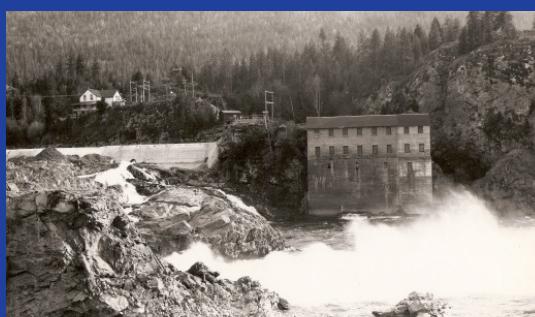
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 - AUGUST 2021

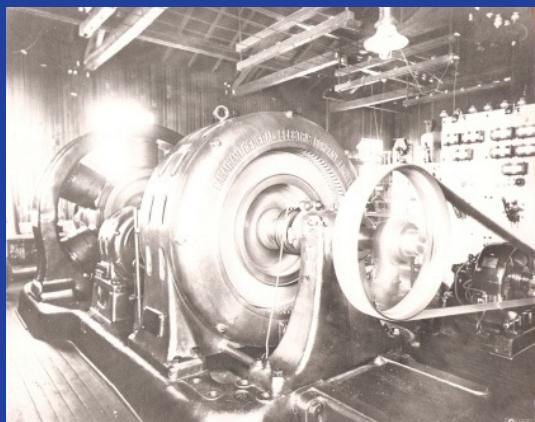


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City of Nelson, Bonnington Falls Power Plant, 1940



Original 35 kilowatt direct current generator at Cottonwood Falls power plant.

125TH ANNIVERSARY

2021 marks the 125th Anniversary of hydroelectric power in Nelson.

It was in the year 1896 that Nelson became the first community in British Columbia to have its own hydroelectric power station operating at Cottonwood Falls. It was called the Nelson Electric Light Company. With increasing demands for more power, 11 years later in January 1907, the new City Power Plant started operation at Bonnington Falls.

You can learn more about our history at nelson.ca/hydro and by exploring the **History of Hydro** series displayed on the pad mount transformers located in downtown Nelson.

AUTOMATIC RECLOSER MANAGEMENT

Earlier this summer, Nelson Hydro turned off the automatic reclosers on our distribution lines for the safety of our community, customers and our forests.

Automatic reclosers can quickly restore power after outages, but they can also amplify the fire risk from damaged lines as they produce sparks by design. During times when the fire danger rating is High to Extreme, the reclose setting is turned off to avoid the potential of starting interface fires. This results in more frequent and longer outages since, without the reclosers, crews need to respond to patrol the lines and manually restore power once the issue has been identified.

The recloser detects a power surge, momentarily interrupts electricity flow, and then automatically recloses its contacts to restart flow down the affected line. Reclosers usually try restarting a line two to three times before giving up and "locking out" a line. Sometimes multiple attempts are needed to do the job, such as when high-temperature electrical arcing at the site of the fault burns away hung trees or tree limbs. Under the wrong conditions, such arcing and ignition can obviously spark a fire.

Nelson Hydro will turn the reclosers back on when the regional fire danger rating has stabilized to Moderate danger or below.

CONTACT US!



nelsonhydro@nelson.ca



General Inquiries
250-352-8240



Account Inquiries
250-352-8206

YOUR NEW ONLINE ACCOUNT & BILLING OPTION

Starting September 14th, Nelson Hydro customers can register for their online account.

As you may remember, we hoped to offer our online portal to Nelson Hydro customers in the spring of 2021. However, during part of the standard security preparation completed by our IT Department and third-party security testers, we uncovered findings that required attention. We worked with our partner Advanced Utility Systems to remediate and resolve these issues and are now confident in launching the online portal to our customers. Nelson Hydro is pleased that the work we have undertaken to create a secure portal for our customers will make processes better for others in the industry.

On Tuesday, September 14th, 2021, Nelson Hydro will officially launch the online portal.



Stay tuned for further updates on the City of Nelson Facebook page and our City website. As of Sept 14th, please follow the link from the main page at www.nelson.ca (see icon above) to register for your online account.



BCUC Application Presentation

Nelson Hydro will be hosting a virtual presentation and Q&A session for the public regarding our 2022 General Rate Application to the BCUC on Monday, Sept. 27, 2021.

Please visit nelson.ca/hydro for details on how to register for the presentation.

Questions? Email: nelsonhydro@nelson.ca

OSPREY NEST RELOCATION

The Osprey have moved in!

On June 9th, Nelson Hydro installed a pole with an osprey platform on Hwy 3A near the Harrop Ferry. The osprey had been persistently building on the nearby power pole creating a safety hazard for workers and the osprey. In consultation with Pandion Ecological Research, the new, taller pole with a nest platform was placed a few meters away. The Nelson Hydro Power Line Crew took the extra time to secure branches to the platform before raising it into place to give the osprey a head start on their nest. Two weeks later, a breeding pair had already moved in!

Thank you to everyone in the community that continue to help Nelson Hydro be proactive in finding solutions to these issues before they result in power outages or injury to workers and wildlife.



SAVE ENERGY, SAVE MONEY!

Visit nelson.ca/ecosave to register for the Regional Energy Efficiency Program to access:

- An income qualified program (ECAP) that provides free installation of energy efficiency products and may result in a new gas furnace, added insulation and more.
- Free EnerGuide home energy evaluation (after rebates). In order to access the maximum energy upgrade rebate amounts, you must start with the evaluation before you begin any work.

If you would like guidance to determine which program is best for you, please email the EcoSave Program Manager at ecosave@nelson.ca.

ON-BILL FINANCING

EcoSave offers on-bill financing to City of Nelson residents for energy upgrades and for E-bikes.



nelson.ca/ecosave

